

CHAPTER 5: THE COMMUNITY

DEMOGRAPHICS

The City of Raleigh is one of the fastest growing areas in the country. From 1970 to 2000, the population of Raleigh more than doubled. There are many different reasons for this significant growth including Raleigh's high quality of life with superior educational and recreational opportunities along with its successful job growth and continued improvements to City infrastructure among other important features.

In the past decade, the population of Raleigh and its planning jurisdiction grew by 28.2 percent, from 237,056 to 303,971. The planning jurisdiction, as set by the Raleigh Comprehensive Plan (2002) includes the areas outside the City limits that are urbanizing along with the City proper and are subject to City building permit regulations, zoning and urban standards. This extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ) area extends up to three miles beyond the existing City limits. It is projected that this area will grow by two percent each year in the foreseeable future and that by the year 2025, Raleigh's population will exceed 541,000.

Demographic data from the 1990 Census compared to the 2000 Census shows a number of trends for Raleigh (not including the planning jurisdiction) that directly impact the Parks and Recreation Department's decision-making:

- The population of school-aged children 5 to 19 years in age grew at a high rate, increasing 65 percent from 1990 to 2000. This is compared to increases of 26.5 percent for the population 20 to 44 years, and 20.2 percent for the population 65 years and over.
- The median age of Raleigh's residents increased from 30.2 years in 1990 to 30.9 years in 2000.
- Between 1990 and 2000, average household size did not change, remaining at 2.3. The number of families increased by 27.1 percent and the number of persons per family increased from 2.92 to 2.97. The persons per owner-occupied units decreased from 2.5 in 1990 to 2.43 in 2000, and the number of persons per renter-occupied housing units increased from 2.05 to 2.15.
- Raleigh's population has become much more racially and ethnically diverse over the past decade. The percentage of Raleigh's Non-Hispanic White population decreased from 69 percent in 1990 to 63.3 percent in 2000, while the Asian population more than doubled to 3.8 percent of the population and the population of Hispanic or Latino origin of any race grew by over 500 percent from 1.4 percent of the population to 7 percent during the past decade (including population within the ETJ). The Black population showed a slight decrease from 28 percent in 1990 to 27.8 percent in 2000.
- Raleigh and its planning jurisdiction is considered an affluent area with a year 2000 median family income of \$61,774 compared to the State of North Carolina median family income of \$45,087. As another comparison, the Wake County median family income for 2000 was \$68,883.

RECREATION PARTICIPATION AND PREFERENCE SURVEY SUMMARY

Methodology

This summary includes results of responses to the Recreation Participation Preference Survey mailed to a random sample of Raleigh households on 25 March 2002. There were 4,750 surveys sent to households which were non-Latino and 750 surveys sent to households which were designated as Latino. This distinction is drawn to highlight the particular effort made to inclusively sample Raleigh's Latino population. The Latino list was approximately 14 percent of the total sample, twice the proportion of Latino households in the population (2000 census). A reminder postcard was sent to all survey households about 8 April to encourage a response. As responses were received or undelivered pieces were returned they were removed from the master mailing lists. For those households that remained on the list a note of importance and a new survey were sent about 25 April. For the non-Latino list there were 3,659 non-responses, 419 (8.8%) un-deliverable, and 672 responses. Of the viable mailing addresses on the list (4,331 viable addresses) 15.5% households responded. There were 14 surveys that had critical missing data and thus could not be used in the analysis. This resulted in a usable response rate of 15.2%. The Latino list on the other hand was not as successful. There were approximately only 253 viable addresses on the Latino list with 497 (66.3%) returned as undeliverable. There were only 8 surveys (3.2%) received from respondents from this list. The planned second mailing to the Latino list was cancelled because of this low response and the inability to acquire a productive mailing list. These 8 Latino responses have been included in this analysis. There was an attempt to produce an increased number of Latino responses by providing an opportunity to fill out a survey for participants at the Latino Festival held in a Raleigh Park on 5 May. Park staff and volunteers were trained to approach participants, explain the importance of the survey and pass out the questionnaires. Seating and tables were provided for the comfort of the respondents. Bilingual attendants were available and every effort was made to solicit participation. Fewer than 10 surveys were completed during the Festival; these were filled out by non-Latinos. Additionally, staff deleted most demographic questions from Spanish language surveys and distributed these postage paid in two specific neighborhoods. No responses were returned. Because of the alternative collection technique, these responses were not included in this analysis. Results of the survey, including all related tables of responses, can be found in the appendix.

EXISTING CONDITIONS

At present, the City of Raleigh is home to over 7,700 acres of parkland and Greenways that allow opportunities for active and passive recreation and provide urban open spaces within the community. This system includes a broad range of dedicated parks (see Map 1) that are classified in the following manner:

- Mini Parks (14)
- Neighborhood Parks (37)
- Community Parks (21)
- Metro Parks (8)
- Wetlands and Ecological Preserves (0)
- Special Parks (101)

Mini Parks

Mini Parks are located mainly in the downtown core of Raleigh and serve the needs of residents in their immediate area. Mini parks are very small in size, ranging from 1/3 acre to nearly four acres. These parks most often include a small children's play area or tot lot, open areas for unplanned active or passive use and in many cases basketball courts. Presently the City does not have a planning goal in place to actively pursue further development of mini parks but is committed to maintaining or improving these parks over time. Examples of mini parks include Lane Park and Mordecai Park.

Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood Parks serve residents within a one-mile radius throughout the City. These parks currently range in size from just over one acre to over 65 acres but typically fall with a range of eight to 25 acres. Neighborhood parks serve the basic daily recreational needs of the surrounding neighborhoods and most often include playgrounds, basketball or multi-use courts and open space or free play areas. Examples of Neighborhood Parks include Williams and Sanderford Parks.

Community Parks

Community Parks currently serve residents within a two-mile radius and offer both the facilities of Neighborhood Parks and additional facilities that serve the larger community. Many Community Parks include a staffed community center with a gymnasium and offer a variety of indoor and outdoor actively programmed activities. Extensively developed sports fields are typically found in Community Parks as are specialty facilities such as sand volleyball courts and internal exercise trails. Examples of Community Parks include Jaycee, Chavis and Lions Parks.

Metro Parks

The eight Metro Parks in Raleigh serve the entire community with unique facilities that offer citizens opportunities ranging from recreational boating at Lake Johnson to environmental education programs at Durant Nature Center to an amusement park with antique carousel at Pullen Park. Metro Parks are the largest park classification with each park averaging nearly 300 acres in size. Metro Parks do offer some of the facilities of Neighborhood and Community Parks, however, their main focus is to give citizens special recreation opportunities.

Greenways

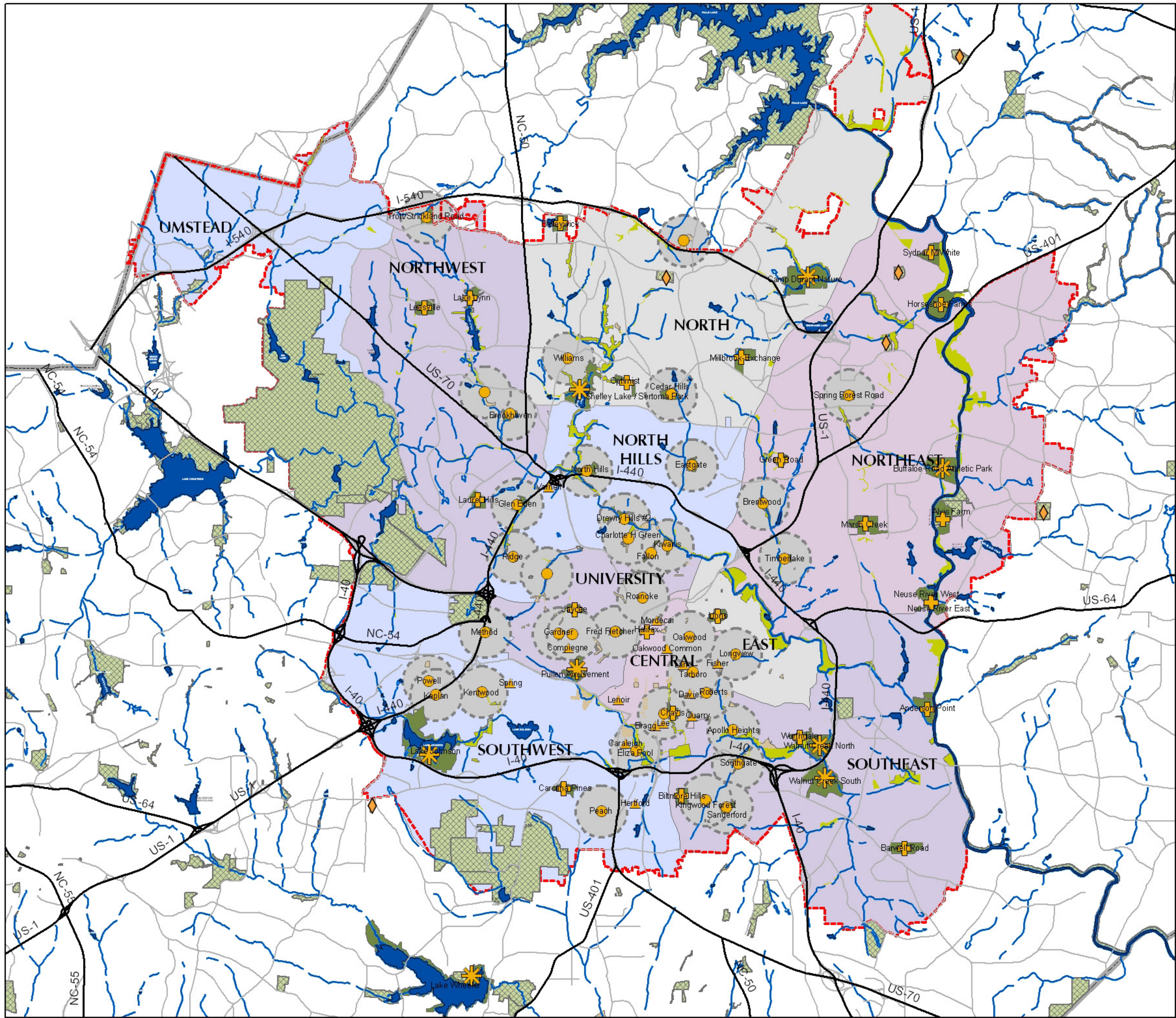
The extensive Greenway corridor system serves several important recreational and environmental functions in the City. Over 2,500 acres comprise this system of urban open space and preserved natural areas. Greenways primarily follow major stream courses and offer opportunities to experience diverse ecological features while still within the City. Raleigh's Capital Area Greenway is a system of public recreation trails located within Greenway corridors and offer users activities such as hiking, jogging, biking and wildlife viewing. With 43 miles of completed Greenway Trails and many more proposed, this system has as its ultimate goal a highly connected recreation network that reaches all areas of the City and connects major parks other destinations. See Map 2.

Wetlands and Ecological Preserves and Special Parks

Wetlands and Ecological Preserves and Special Parks round out the park facilities offered by the City. Though there is a classification for Wetlands and Ecological Preserves, there are currently no lands or parks that fall in this class. Special Parks offer a very wide range of facilities and land holdings. Cultural facilities in this class include Civic Centers, outdoor theaters and historic plantations. Recreational facilities include Lake Benson and several small urban squares. This class also includes significant land holdings in City cemeteries, municipal buildings and a wide variety of small remnant parcels throughout the City.

See Map 1. Existing Facilities

See Map 2. Capital Area Greenway Map



Raleigh Parks Plan

Raleigh North Carolina



DRAFT - May 2003

Map 1. Existing Park System Facilities

Legend

- Existing Metro Parks
- Existing Mini Parks
- Existing Neighborhood Parks
- Existing School Park (Designated as Neighborhood Park)
- Existing Community Parks
- Raleigh Parklands
- Special Parks or Undeveloped Parkland
- Lakes & Streams
- Existing Greenway Corridors
- Wake County Parks & Open Space
- Raleigh ETJ
- Highways and Interstates
- Major Roads

0 5,000 10,000 20,000 Feet
1 inch equals 10,000 feet



SmithGroup JJR

Mark Robinson & Associates

Dr. Gene Brothers

Capital Area Greenway



- Trails (Proposed)**
1. Middle Crabtree Trail
 2. Walnut Creek Eliza Pool Trail
 3. Crabtree-Oak Park Trail
 4. Walnut Creek-City Farm Road Trail
 5. Crabtree-Duraleigh Trail

Existing Trails

#	Trail Name	Location	Distance	Surface
1	Alleghany Trail	Lassiter Mill Rd.	2.4 miles	Paved
2	Beaver Dam Trail	Wade Ave./Dixie Tr.	1.4 miles	Earth/Concrete
3	Bent Creek Trail	Longstreet Dr.	1.35 miles	Paved
4	Brentwood Trail	Ingram Dr.	0.75 miles	Paved
5	Buckeye Trail	Raleigh Blvd./Milburne Rd.	2.5 miles	Paved
6	Crabtree Valley Trail	Crabtree Valley Ave.	1.0 mile	Paved
7	Durant Trails	Camp Durant Rd.	1.1 miles	Paved
8	Fallon Creek Trail	Noble Rd.	0.5 miles	Paved
9	Falls River Trail	Falls River Ave.	1.1 miles	Paved
10	Gardner Street Trail	Gardner St.	0.7 miles	Earth/Concrete
11	Ironwood Trail	Milbrook Rd.	1.3 miles	Paved
12	Lake Johnson Trail System	Avent Ferry Rd.	5.5 miles	Paved/Natural
13	Lake Lynn Trail	Lynn Rd.	2.2 miles	Paved
14	Lake Park Trail	Rushing Brook Dr.	0.6 miles	Earth
15	Little Rock Trail	Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.	0.9 miles	Paved
16	Loblolly Trail	Trinity Rd.	6.0 miles	Earth
17	Lower Walnut Creek Trail	Cooper Rd.	2.1 miles	Pave
18	Neuse River Trail	Rogers Ln.	4.0 miles	Earth
19	North Hills Trail	North Hills Dr.	1.0 miles	Paved
20	Rocky Branch Trail	Western Blvd.	1.5 miles	Paved
21	Sawmill Trail	Sawmill Rd.	0.9 miles	Earth
22	Shelley Lake Trail	West Millbrook Rd.	3.0 miles	Paved
23	Upper Walnut Trail	Lake Dam Rd.	1.1 miles	Paved
24	West Millbrook Trail	Strickland Rd.	0.3 miles	Paved/Concrete

Raleigh Parks Plan

Raleigh North Carolina



DRAFT - May 2003

Map 2. Capital Area Greenways

SmithGroup JJR

Mark Robinson & Associates

Dr. Gene Brothers